The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XXI. CHICAGO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1867. NUMBER 165.

THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON.

Meeting of the Republican National Executive Committee.

The Republican National Convention to Meet in Chicago.

Bill Being Prepared to Provide for the Sale of Military Reservations.

An investigation to be Made into the Management of the Post Office Department.

Proposed Modification of the Internal Revenue Laws.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO.

The National Republican Executive Committee met at noon to-day. All the members were present in person or by proxy, except those from Michigan, Kansas and West Virginia. A proposition was submitted to change the name to the National Union Convention, but after some discussion it was withdrawn, all the members agreeing that the change was not advisable. The time for holding the convention was fixed on the 20th of May, only six members voting for a later day, namely the middle of July or first of July. There was not much debate on this point. The chief discussion arose on the question where the convention should be held. Chicago and Indianapolis were the cities named by special committees. St. Louis was urged by Missouri Congressmen, and the advantages of Chicago were set forth in a letter signed by several leading citizens of that place. Horace Greeley strongly urged that Cincinnati should be selected. His strong point was that the convention ought to be held at a place where loyalty is distinct and needs help. Mr. Cook, of Illinois, answered that according to this argument New York city ought to be chosen. This retort raised a laugh, and finished Mr. Greeley's speech. The vote was announced: Chicago 19, Cincinnati 6, Indianapolis 8, St. Louis 3. Second ballot the same. Third and fourth ballots: Chicago 19, Cincinnati 6, St. Louis and Indianapolis 8 each. On the fifth ballot Chicago received 19, Cincinnati 10. The vote in favor of Chicago was then made unanimous, and the Chairman announced that the time for holding the convention was the 20th of May, and the place Chicago.

MR. TRUMBULL said the opinion of the Attorney General had not been followed, because there was a clear decision to compel the money to be paid in. The entire proceeds of the bonds were two millions, and the last proceeds were the interest on the bonds. If that was not enough, but he would support the amendment offered by Mr. Fessenden, but though a Republican he did not like the Senator from Illinois, but if Democrats were willing to support him he would be right to decide for, whether the property was captured and abandoned. It was known that the property was captured and abandoned, and was now claimed by the rebel owners, not here, but at Indianapolis.

As was natural, the depot was surrounded with vast throngs to-day, as the first regiment of troops arrived, and detailed which good-looking men were the owners of the cotton and tobacco in the depot, and the new arrivals were taken to the Court House grounds, and then through a procession of the committee was in favor of their proposition, if it is approved by the House it will be reported substantially as it passed the House.

SENATOR PATTERSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, is preparing a bill looking to a complete revision of the internal revenue system, the object of which is to reduce to retrenchment, and, consequently, an immediate reduction of the present amount of taxation. It is understood that he will recommend a radical and sweeping change in the system, particularly in South America. Senator Morrill will also introduce a bill on the same subject at an early day.

INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTORSHIP.

The World's special says: "The Senate Finance Committee will undoubtedly sustain the President's action in the case of Mr. E. T. Wood, the present Collector of the Third (Brooklyn) District, with the view to impose on to the Senate. There is no reason to doubt his confirmation."

TAX MATTERS.

The *Herald's* special says: "The Committee of Ways and Means will soon take up internal revenue matters, and will probably report a reduction of the present rate of taxation as will greatly relieve the pressure upon the necessities of the."

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.

SENATE.

The CHAIR submitted a petition from the citizens of Michigan, praying that there are more districts in the Southern district of that State for legislative purposes, and asking for appropriations for the erection of a Custom-house and Post-office at Detroit.

Mr. DIXON presented a petition from the citizens of the Taylor Orphan Asylum of Racine, Wisconsin, praying for the payment of the claim against the United States for the support of the Asylum. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. WILLEY introduced a bill to pay the land claims in the Territory of Utah. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

A joint resolution was introduced by Mr. SHERMAN to appoint a committee to consider the question of the payment of the Mexican indemnity. Adopted.

Mr. HOWARD introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary:

Be it enacted, &c., That all and singular, the laws, declarations and acts of Congress, and treaties of the United States, so far as the same are applicable, shall be and are hereby declared in full force and virtue in all the States and Territories of the United States.

Mr. HOWARD introduced a bill to amend the act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the State of Superior to Puget's Sound, by the northern route.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN the Senate took up the bill providing that certain moneys in the hands of Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, subject to special appropriation, received from the sale of Government property, shall be paid into the Treasury, and not drawn upon warrant into the Treasury, and not drawn upon warrant into the Treasury, and not drawn upon warrant

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1867.

Notice to Subscribers.

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THE TRI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE is issued on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for the mail only; and

THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE is issued every Thursday, for the mails and to go by our carriers and by steamers.

TERMS

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THE TRIBUNE COMPANY,

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The Alabama Constitution.

A vast deal of outcry has been made by the Copperhead orators and journals over the alleged abominations of the Alabama Constitutional Convention organized and worked by authority of the Reconstruction acts of Congress. We have a copy of the constitution framed by that body, lying before us as we write; and we are compelled, after a careful examination of its provisions, to declare that it is in all respects superior to the constitution of Illinois; and that were it made the fundamental law of our State to-day, no man could raise a valid objection to it, or organize a corporal's guard to contest its amendment or repeal. What is good enough for Illinois is good enough for Alabama. Indeed the new constitution hardly differs from that under which the people of Alabama formerly lived, save in that it extends the Democratic principle so as to include all the citizens of the State. Of course it expressly prohibits slavery; and with equal emphasis it declares the equality before the law of all men without regard to color, race, or previous condition. It follows that the system of public education established by this system embraces white and black alike in their operation. We see no harm to happen to anybody by promoting intelligence among all classes; and surely the State is stronger, better defended by her entire people, than if a half of the number were forbidden to bear arms. Copperheadism, which is simply the concentrated malevolence of the dark ages reappearing to us as a warning in these democratic days, objects that this is elevating the negro and making him the equal of the white man. We hope it is; and if there were any known method of making him the superior of the average Alabama white man, we should wish for that too. He would not be a fit subject for canonization even then. Having a comfortable consciousness that one sort of white man is superior to the African black man, in all the essential qualities which fell in society's path in the State, we are not afraid to give the negro a fair start in the race toward the goal to which all modern civilization extends. If Copperhead conscience is not quite as sure as Copperhead superiority, and sets up a plea of force to keep the negro below the level of Henry Clay Dean, the editor of the New York *Day-Book*, and others of that ilk, who are afraid of negro supremacy, Copperheads are to be pitied. They need to be taught a lesson, and immediately dispatched to a graded school, from which, for prudential reasons, teaching Copperheads alone, Sambo and all of his color are excluded.

The qualification of electors under the constitution to which we speak, was a matter over which the convention labored and anxiously debated. As finally decided, the illiberality and proscription which were feared do not appear in the completed instrument. We quote the essential clauses or "elections" satire:

"It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide, from time to time, for the registration of all electors, but the General Assembly shall not be required to register, revise or hold elections: 1. Unless it shall be made to appear, indicted, or caused to be indicted, any grand or petit juror, sheriff, coroner, clerk of any court, justice, employee or citizen of the United States, or who, in any other way, violated the rights of another. 2. Those who shall have been convicted of bribery, offering bribes, or the proposal thereof. 3. Those who shall have been convicted of treason, embezzlement of public funds, malfeasance in office, or any infamous crime, unless restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law. 4. Those who shall have been convicted of violating their oath as officers, after having previously taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, under the act of Congress 'to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States,' passed March 2, 1867, and the acts supplementary thereto, except such persons as shall be relieved from disabilities by act of Congress, as it accept the proposed equality of all born here and the laws of the State. The General Assembly shall have power to remove the disabilities incurred under this section, and shall have full power to prescribe the manner in which persons applying for relief may make known the same to said committee; that said committee shall consist of three persons, one of whom shall be secretary of said committee, and that said committee shall have full power to send for persons, and to compel the attendance of witnesses."

This committee should be selected not from the friends and partisans of the Police Commissioners; but the committee should consist of the most minded and ablest men in the Council, taken from both parties, who cannot be accused of personal prejudice in favor of or against the police department. If the Council cannot select a committee who will investigate thoroughly the whole police business, uncovering every nucleus of black mailing or compounding with villainy, then it will be better to have no committee at all. Whitewashing is useless; saints will show themselves, no matter how the lime-water may be put on. If the police department cannot survive the report of any committee, with the evidence annexed, then that is one of the strongest reasons why a body of men so demoralized should be disbanded and a new force organized.

If, however, the police department has unquestioned in its own integrity and purity; if it knows these charges to be false and malicious, then it owes it to the public not to stand upon mere technicalities, but to address a petition, signed by the Commissioners and all the subordinate officers, requesting an examination by a committee of Comiskey's own selection, embracing the whole administration of the departments and the conduct of all the members. Such a request would be far more satisfactory than a general challenge to have the members tried upon specific charges before the Commissioner or a justice of the peace. We have reason to believe that the Commissioners will no longer rest under the imputations which, in the absence of investigation, are seriously to gain public confidence to them, but will themselves ask at once the most searching inquiry into their conduct that will satisfy the public.

Our Commercial Relations with the Spanish West Indies.

The quiet allusion in the President's Message to the unfortunate condition of our commercial relations with Spain and her colonies, recalls a very curious act of legislation, the history of which is probably not generally known:

The Secretary of the Treasury in his report, thus alluded to it, without expressing the nature of the resultatory action:

"Our commercial relations with Spain and her colonies, under the acts of July 24, 1861, and March 1, 1862, have been unsatisfactory. Acts of Congress, with Cuba and Puerto Rico, have been many years in force, which, in the opinion of the Executive, require modification. The acts above referred to were passed at a time when the country was distracted by a war of unexampled magnitude and severity, and all subordinate officers; that they give, while other nations are constantly adding to the area of our mercantile marine by new members of the deposit system, the United States has practically abandoned that and has prohibited, instead, the use of the privilege to vessels of Spain and her colonies. The inequality and injustice of the present system are obvious, and call for prompt action. Legislation is also required to prevent the abuse of the privilege of transportation in bond of goods destined for Mexico, by way of Matamoras, Texas, and to prevent the fraudulent importation of goods into

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

Letters in Reference to the Probable Safety of the Explorer.

From the London Times, November 26.

Some important information with reference to the position of Dr. Livingstone, and the leading vel ative was imparted by Sir Roderick Murchison, last evening, to a crowded meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, at Burlington House. The large room filled so rapidly that the President announced that applying ten minutes before the time of meeting, and, after a few introductory remarks, read the following communication from Dr. Kirk, to which he had previously referred:

ZANZIBAR, Sept. 26.

You know that a rumor has been carried on the coast that a white man had been seen near Ujiji. I am sorry to say it is a fact, and I fear there is little possible that Livingstone could be the person referred to. Many months have now elapsed since we received any letters from him, and, it we believe it, it is, I think, decidedly against the probability that the white traveller may even yet be rescued, and discovery gives us the only hope of his safety.

A Jumbe at Bimbo has told me three times that he had seen a white man, but whether such has been or not I am unable to say. The rumor has been carried on the coast to the interior, and it has reached me, and, if we believe it, it is, I think, decidedly against the probability that Livingstone could be the person referred to. Many months have now elapsed since we received any letters from him, and, if

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1867.

THE CITY.

THE COURT HOUSE QUESTION.—A meeting of citizens will be held this evening in the Recorders' Court room, to discuss the "Court House Question." All are interested in the matter is invited to be present.

FIRE.—The alarm from box No. 35, sounded within ten minutes of six o'clock last evening, was occasioned by the burning of a small shed, located near the intersection of Kinzie street and Milwaukee avenue.

OYSTER SUPPER AND FESTIVAL.—Simon Lodge No. (24) I. O. of G. T. are to have an oyster supper and festival at their hall on the northwest corner of Halsted and Harrison streets this (Thursday) evening. A fine goes cheap (made quarter), will be in attendance.

MISSION FAIR.—Canvassers, solicitors, committees, and all others interested in the Sunday School Mission Fair, to commence next week at Farwell Hall, are requested to meet the Superintendent at the Superintendent of the Young Men's Christian Association, this morning, at 10 o'clock.

THIRD WARD MEETING.—A meeting of the Republican voters of the Tenth Ward will be held at 7½ o'clock this (Thursday) evening in Goebel's Hall, No. 123 West Randolph street, to select a reliable person to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Alderman Brady.

ARREST OF A PICKPOCKET.—A lady, whose name has not been learned, had her pocket picked yesterday, while standing on the corner of Wabash avenue and Harrison street. The thief got away, but was arrested, and is now at the Armory awaiting examination.

BROKEN DOWN A SHOW CASE.—On Monday night three boys named William Guinness, James Dillon and John Russell, broke open a show case in front of T. B. Hoxie's store on Randolph street and stole a quantity of perfumery and a number of fancy articles. They were pursued and captured, and yesterday were committed for trial.

OWNER FOUND.—The coats and breastcloth, discovered in the possession of Charles Schmidt, by officer Lull and Gubbins, on Monday evening, have been claimed by a gentleman who says he has found an owner. They were taken from the clothing establishment of Francis Bosch, No. 208 Randolph street.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We are requested by the ladies of the Reformed Dutch Society of the Second Presbyterian Church, to return their thanks to Mr. Wheeler & Wilson sewing Comp'y, for the sewing machine, to the poor of their people.

THE BAND CONCERT.—The Reform School Band Concert which comes off at Farwell Hall tonight, bids fair to be a great success. The programme is full of good things. The ticket office will be open at nine o'clock this morning. From that time on to the hour for the concert to commence, Farwell Hall will be crowded, it will be well to select seats early.

DISORDERLY HOUSE.—On Tuesday night the police of the Twenty-second street sub-station visited the disorderly house kept by John Smith, on Archer avenue, and arrested the keeper and five inmates, two of whom were women. They were all fined $10 each, with the exception of the women, who was discharged.

CHRIST CHURCH FESTIVAL AND OYSTER SUPPER.—On account of the inclemency of the weather last evening, the festival given by the ladies of Christ Church, in the basement of their church, corner of Michigan avenue and Twenty-fourth street, will be held this evening. Supper will be served from 5 to 10 o'clock. Tickets of admission reduced.

PAINFUL ACCIDENT.—D. C. Brooks, Esq., associate editor of our sprightly contemporary, the *Morning Post*, met with rather a painful accident on Tuesday evening. On passing through the alley leading from the Post House to Clark street, he fell into an exposed hatchway, and his limbs and face were badly bruised; several teeth were also knocked out.

MAKING FALSE RETURNS.—James A. Carlyle, a hardware merchant doing business at Elgin, Ill., who was arrested a day or two since by Revenue Agent I. N. Buck, on the charge of making fraudulent returns of the amount of his business, was duly arraigned before Commissioner Hoyne yesterday afternoon, and held for trial in the sum of $200.

OBSTRUCTION OF MARKET STREET.—Numerous gentlemen doing business on Market street complain bitterly that what with the new sewer and the tunnel crossing it they are regularly shocked, so that it is next to impossible for them to walk from the Sherman House to the Post Office. Petition the Council to remove the hay market to some location more convenient for them if not for the public.

THE LARCENY FROM THE SCHOONER KING.—Frank Ready, John Arin, James Ryan, Thomas Egan and, William Brown, were examined before Justice Sinnevaid, charged with having been concerned in the larceny of clothing and other valuable articles from the schooner C. C. King last Sunday night. Detective Kelly succeeded in finding a portion of the stolen property in pawn-brokers' shops, where it had been left by the defendants. The accused were committed for trial.

STEW UP.—In a previous edition was noticed the arrest of a German named Charles Schmidt, who was last evening released on bail. Schmidt's clothing along the street. Schmidt's excuse was to give a satisfactory account of how he had obtained possession of the goods. Subsequently he had received them from a stranger, who told him to carry them to a certain house on Clark street. Schmidt was yesterday committed for trial on a charge of larceny, in default of $500 bail.

RUINS IN THE EAST.—Rev. Dr. Balch, of Lombard University, will deliver the first of a course of lectures before the Literary Society connected with the Second Universalist Church, corner of Washington and Sangamon streets, this evening (Thursday), commencing at 7½ o'clock. The lecture will be illustrated by a series of views. At the conclusion of the course, $1 single lecture, 50 cents; to be obtained at the church on the evening of the lecture.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAIR AT LASALLE. [illegible] ...sion. Jacques Gury and Jacques Gerard [illegible] ...Jacques Gury was arrested on the charge of [illegible] ...Porter undertook the criminal obtained.

[illegible] ...Judges Gary and Lockwood [illegible] ...Judgments as follows:

[illegible] ...Hall vs. James Crow. Case. Dolloff and not guilty.

Theodore Krafft vs. Conrad Reuban. Assumpsit. By default for $761.85.

Archibald Wright vs. James Riley. Assumpsit. By default for $189.75.

John Edgerly vs. William Fleming. Assumpsit. By default for $600.00.

George P. Andrews et al. vs. Benjamin Trapp. Assumpsit. Jury waived. Finding for plaintiff.

John Potter vs. Charles J. Wyeth. Assumpsit. Judgment by default for $1,000 and costs.

The following cases were dismissed:

Bernard Hoffman et al. vs. Frederick Attachment.

Joseph H. Daniels et al. vs. the Same.

Howes vs. Lonbe Sertrand.

The following cases are on trial:

Frederick Mosf vs. Frederick Mosf. Attachment.

Northwestern Manufacturing Company vs. Henry Pitcher, Jr., et al. Assumpsit.

In the case of Charles Sol vs. John F. Brown and Buckingham Smith, here ofre mention, the defendant was found guilty of the charge, and appealed.

The Police Commission was engaged to the continued hearing of the case of George B. Dewsnell vs. La Fayette Chapin and Charles Gossett, Attachment. The complainant in the case claims $1,400 damages, assessed due to him for services in superintending the fitting up of the Saginaw Opera House, and the amount being in addition to that which they have already paid him. The case was on trial when the Court rose, and will be resumed this morning.

BANKING.—At the regular annual convention of La Fayette Chapter No. 2, R. A. M., held in the hall in the Masonic Temple Monday evening, December 9th, the following officers were elected and duly installed into office for the ensuing year: M. E. James H. Miles, H. P.; Samuel Brown, K.; M. E. Hitchcock, S.; Rev. Wm. Stevens, P. S.; Rev. Robert Laird, C. H.; H. W. Higbie, Treasurer; Rev. N. Turner, Secretary; W. C. Stubefield, R. A. C.; Rose, P. S.; M. V. L. Cook, M. 1st V.; C. Osborn, M. 2d V.; Rev. C. H. Ray, Chaplain; F. D. Foss, M.; M. L. Turner, S. Burnham.

MUSIC—HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—The Society has become the recipient of a handsome and valuable music benefaction from Messrs. Root & Cady, No. 67 Washington street, composed of twenty-six different volumes of the industrious Dr. Recorder's Court would be taken up. There never was any question as to the guilt of the prisoner, but in cases where witnesses are held in duress it is customary to postpone the trial for a week or two, or incarceration.

The case of Alfred Okeberg, indicted for murder by stabbing William F. Moore, was then called. In consequence of the absence of a witness was unable to attend by reason of sickness, and the hearing was deferred until Friday next. A motion to admit the prisoner to bail was interposed, upon the ground that the name of the deceased is not fully stated, and that the facts in case do not constitute a crime under the statute.

Lemuel B. Sawyer, a boy of diminutive size, was then arraigned on a charge of larceny, and pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny. He stole a gold watch and chain, valued at $100, from Wm. G. Edwards.

James Tarwanqph pleaded guilty of larceny.

John Dalton. Larceny. Verdict of guilty of petit larceny.

Isaac O. Sperry. Conspiracy. The prisoner played a confidence game on Mr. Edwards to the tune of forty dollars of him; received sixty-five dollars and gave him a check, but had a companion who made off with the proceeds of the negotiation. Verdict of guilty.

The jury were sent as follows:

$2,000. Benjamin F. Haddock vs. Charles and Francis D. Tyrrell. Assumpsit. Damages, $500.

$2,000. Kate vs. Lizzie W. Sharp et al. Petition for dower in the east half of north 16 acres, being part of N. W. ¼ Sec. 25, T. 39, N. R. 13, E. Dower.

$2,000. James L. Smith vs. Jonas White. Attachment. Dism. Def. to costs.

$2,000. Same vs. Charles M. Smith. Debt, $300. Dism. Def. to costs.

$2,000. Jeffry Prendergrass et al. vs. John B. Tobey and Patrick McMasters. Appeal. Dism. $2,000. Daniel Wentworth, administrator of al. vs. Henry Street. Case. Damages, $3,000.

Office, City of Chicago vs. Jeremiah Carey. Appeal from Rulings of Police Court on a charge of larceny. Case dismissed at the defendant's costs.

Application for Writ of Habeas Corpus vs. Edward F. Dorr. Assumpsit. Damages, $600.

$2,000. Board of Trustees of town 39, range 13 E. vs. Edward A. Bowen et al. Assumpsit. Damages, $1,000.

RECORDER'S COURT.

The continued subpœna of Reporter Van Buren gives little chance of the availability of his services in the case of the shooting of Officer Cahill. The court was not, yesterday, in session. The only case on trial was

$2,000. John C. Barker vs. Samuel Eddy. Assumpsit. $500. Dism.

THE FAMOUS "FOUR INCHES."

The Christian Association—Major Case.

THE TRIBUNE has no interest in the controversy, legal and personal, growing out of the suppressed error in the dividing line between the property of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and Dr. Major, and therefore any assumption that we have undertaken, in what has appeared in this paper, to favor either party to the controversy, is false. Four inches of disputed territory promises to furnish a splendid field for legal display, if not for legal profit, and the end is not yet. The matter eventually was closed by the examination of the parties in court; but that case ought to be a warning to all persons, that the legal profession, like the medical, is a jealous profession, and will not receive "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work." Dr. Major has given his opinion upon the line given to him by the public surveyor, and Mr. Major subscribedly ascertained, by orthogonal surveys, that the assertion had succeeded four inches upon his face. Both believed that they were right, and both were men of character, but the leader of both commands of the hundred of souls, that the latter pay unto him certain thousands of dollars for the said four inches. Mr. Major refused to pay, and Mr. Major refused to pay, and the fascination will have no arbitrament. Dr. Major is rich, in the meantime, surveyors have become in demand. There are others who think the Christians are half an inch on the public ground, and the controversy is likely to grow. The controversy is in its infancy, others will be heard from hereafter. Four inches of territory is a large item. Of all the surveyors in Chicago, and of the famous "four inches" in the history of the country, who are coming hither to render them. [illegible] ...of future witnesses in the great

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

Criminal Business in United States and Superior Courts—Bankruptcies.

A Lake Tunnel Suit—Judgments and New Suits.

Business is progressing in all of the courts with a rapidity which is somewhat trying to the nerves of the Court, and probably pleasing to lawyers. The machinery runs freely in all branches—chancery, common law, criminal, bankruptcy—as now established. The United States Court is now devoting its attention mainly to the criminal calendar, where twenty-five indictments have been found, and the Grand Jury, Foreman of the Superior Court, is attending to the cases in